



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –January 29, 2008

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Hoekstra: Fix FISA Now

WASHINGTON, D.C. – *U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., the top Republican on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, issued the following statement after Congressional Democrats forced passage of a bill to give Congress an extension on reforming the nation's outdated foreign electronic surveillance laws:*

“When the director of national intelligence says the nation is vulnerable and our laws are hampering efforts to keep the homeland safe, you think Congress would act immediately,” Hoekstra said. “Instead, Congressional Democrats are asking for more time to do what they have refused to do for the past six months—to take the necessary steps to give America’s intelligence professionals the tools they need to protect our nation.

“Congress should not need an extension; it needs to fix our broken terrorist surveillance laws now. We are talking about the national security of the United States, not buying groceries. It’s not something to be done on a week-to-week basis.”

“Reforming terrorist surveillance law requires three elements: 1) We need a long-term, comprehensive solution; 2) We need liability protection for patriotic companies that may have helped protect the United States from attack; and 3) We need to protect American civil liberties by requiring a court order when an American is the surveillance target.”

“These are simple straightforward things Congress can do now to permanently strengthen our terrorist surveillance laws. We don’t need to extend it, we need to fix it.”